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HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY AND COST STUDY RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT RAMP IN EAST MOLOKA'I BETWEEN MILE MARKERS TEN AND SIXTEEN.

WHEREAS, due to shallow mud flats and fringing reefs in certain areas on the island of Moloka'i, there are few areas with sufficiently deep channels for safe and easy marine access; and

WHEREAS, during low tide on the east end of Moloka'i, it is impossible to launch or dock boats; and

WHEREAS, currently, boaters on the east end of Moloka'i must travel to Kaunakakai Harbor, a trip that takes a substantial amount of time and expends a great amount of fuel; and

WHEREAS, most families on the east end of Moloka'i rely on the sea for their daily source of food; and

WHEREAS, today, with fewer edible food resources close to shore, fishermen are forced to travel farther out to sea to catch fish; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of the available commodities and merchandise for retail on the island are shipped to Moloka'i, which increases those costs for residents and forces them to fish as a necessity to supplement their diet; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has jurisdiction over small boat ramp facilities pursuant to chapter 266, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a small boat ramp facility such as the one located at Hana Harbor may be necessary for Moloka'i residents on the east end of Moloka'i; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the island of Moloka'i needs a new boat ramp to service the residents, particularly those living on the east end of Moloka'i; and

WHEREAS, before a boat ramp facility is constructed, a feasibility and cost study by the Department of Land and Natural Resources is necessary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a feasibility and cost study relating to the construction of a boat ramp in east Moloka'i between mile markers ten and sixteen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016, with its findings and recommendations relating to the feasibility and cost of constructing a boat ramp in east Moloka'i between mile markers ten and sixteen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.